

COURSE DETAIL

JUSTIFYING POLITICAL AUTHORITY

Country

United Kingdom - England

Host Institution

London School of Economics

Program(s)

London School of Economics

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Legal Studies

UCEAP Course Number

154

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

JUSTIFYING POLITICAL AUTHORITY

UCEAP Transcript Title

POLITICAL AUTHORITY

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

The course introduces students to philosophical thinking about the justification of state authority and coercion, to familiarize students with the main methodological, conceptual, and normative issues in the study of political obligation, to teach students about some of the most influential political philosophers and their theories of the state, to encourage and enable students to think critically about the role of ideas such as consent, natural rights, or associative obligation following ideas in justifying political authority, and to help students to develop advanced reasoning skills by training them in abstract, philosophical arguments. The themes that the course covers include anarchism; libertarianism; perfectionism; the consent or social contract tradition; the associative obligation tradition; and democratic and critical (Marxist) theories of the state.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

LL307

Host Institution Course Title

JUSTIFYING POLITICAL AUTHORITY

Host Institution Course Details

https://www.lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar2025-2026/courseGuides/LL/2025_LL307.htm

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

LSE Law School

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

[Print](#)